Erickson Educational Foundation

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

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STANFORD SYMPOSIUM IN FEBRUARY

"In no other area of medicine is there a greater need for inter-disciplinary communication and team work," recently stated Donald R. Laub, M.D., Chief, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Stanford University Medical Center, which will host a symposium on transexualism, February 2-4, 1973.

Panel discussions will be headed by Dr. Milton Edgerton—Surgery; Dr. Richard Green—Psychiatric Aspects; Dr. Norman F. Fisk—Etiology, and Dr. Ira Dushoff—Rehabilitation. The symposium will be attended by physicians from the disciplines of psychiatry, urology, gynecology, reconstructive surgery, endocrinology, research, medicine and surgery as well as psychologists and paramedical personnel.

Several new aspects regarding the nomenclature of the problem, new work on the etiology of transexualism, refinements of surgical techniques and interesting aspects of postoperative follow-up will be highlighted.

Of primary significance—during the symposium the framework will be laid for a national society or organization that will facilitate the interdisciplinary dissemination of scientific information regarding transexualism.

N. Y. TIMES RIDES AGAIN!

Exactly six years after the TIMES startled the world with the news that Johns Hopkins had established a Gender Identity Clinic (with EEF cooperation), it front-paged the comprehensive story by Jane E. Brody, **500 in the U. S. Change Sex in Six Years with Surgery.** The Boston RECORD-AMERICAN headlined their copy **Results of Sex-Change Surgery in U. S. Being Assessed. Preliminary Findings Indicate General Success.**

The article spotlights the work of the various gender identity clinics, the research taking place, interviews and comments on scientific studies.

It is already gratifying to note the favorable response to the TIMES story and its nationwide wire service distribution. It is an immeasurable contribution to EEF efforts to assist public understanding and help to human beings burdened with problems due to no fault of their own. We thank you all.

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

The N. Y. Academy of Medicine Section on Obstetrics and Gynecology has invited EEF to co-sponsor a symposium on transexualism on April 25, 1973, 3-6 PM. The meeting will be open to all members of the medical and allied professions.

Dr. Harry Benjamin, pioneer and author of **The Transexual Phenomenon** (Julian Press), will open the program. Twenty years ago, Dr. Benjamin recalled recently, he presented a paper on transexualism at the Academy. Reactions ranged from skepticism to puzzlement, and one colleague accused him of being "crazy." We are glad to report that the colleague has since changed his opinion.

TO DUBROVNIK

Enthusiastic response is pouring in daily from here and abroad to our announcement of the Third International Symposium on Gender Identity to be held September 8-10, 1973, at the Hotel Libertas, Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia.

Interested professionals are invited to write our Baton Rouge office as soon as possible for information and preliminary registration. Abstracts for papers should be submitted before March 15, 1973.

ON CITIZENSHIP

Good news for postoperative transexuals who were born outside the United States!

Last winter an EEF representative was on hand at the interrogation of a postoperative applicant at the Naturalization Dept. to give relevant information on transexualism and the sex reassignment operation as well as on the character of the individual. Transexualism was a new situation for the examiner to consider and he was obviously puzzled at first.

After months of anxious waiting, however, the citizenship application was granted. As a matter of fact, the only question that came up for a later interview concerned a traffic violation that occurred ten years ago in the native land of our friend who may well be the first naturalized U.S. citizen alumna of the sex reassignment procedure.

JOHN MONEY CITATION

The Annual Award for Significant Contribution to the Scientific Study of Sex was given to John Money, Ph.D., Professor of Medical Psychology and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University, at the November Annual Conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex in Palm Springs.

We applaud this most recent recognition of John Money's unique position of international leadership in the field of sex research and education.

The address given following the award and citation was: "Sexology: Behavioral, Cultural, Parental, Hormonal, Neurohormonal, Genetic, Conceptive, Contraceptive, etc." This will be published in the next issue of the JOURNAL FOR SEX RESEARCH, quarterly periodical of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex.

SSSS MEETING

Included in the program of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex meeting, attended by several hundred people including EEF representation, were papers presented by EEF grantee Vern E. Bullough, Ph.D., "Transvestism in the Middle Ages"; Leo Wollman, M.D., "Transexual Behavior," and Richard Green, M.D., "Gender Identity."

SCIENTIFIC PAPERS

. . . *Pre-Natal Hormones and Intelligence: A Possible Relationship* by John Money, IMPACT OF SCIENCE ON SOCIETY, Vol. XXI, No. 4, 1971.

. . . *Pre-Natal Androgenization of Females*, a Review by P. A. Walker and John Money. HORMONES 3:119-128 1972 (Publishers: S. Karger, Basel).

. . . *Clinical Aspects of Pre-Natal Steroidal Action on Sexually Dimorphic Behavior* by John Money. STEROID HORMONES AND BRAIN FUNCTION (C. Sawyer & R. A. Gorski, eds. Berkeley, University of California Press, 1972.) This was one of the papers presented at the 1970 conference sponsored by the Brain Research Institute of UCLA.

. . . *Fetal Hormones and the Brain:* Effect on Sexual Dimorphism of Behavior. Extract from the forthcoming book, **Man and Woman; Boy and Girl**, Money & Ehrhardt, written with support from EEF to Dr. Ehrhardt (ARCHIVES OF SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, Vol. 1, No. 3, 1971.).

. . . *Sex Reassignment* by John Money assisted by Ronald J. Gaskin. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY 9:249-282. Science House. (Requests for this reprint may be addressed to EEF office in Baton Rouge, enclosing $1.00 to cover costs of handling and postage.)

IN JAPAN

An interview with Dr. John Money was aired over Nippon Hoso Kyokai, the Japanese National Television, Tokyo, on October 26th. This interview was part of a comprehensive program garnered from discussions with leading specialists in the United States and Europe: "OUR WORLD—1970s—*Man and Woman—The Disintegrating Myth.*"

IN EAST BERLIN

Dr. Anke Ehrhardt presented a paper on the evidence that prenatal hormones have an influence on sex-related behavior in the human female, in September at a Symposium on Differentiation and Neuroendocrine Regulation in the Hypothalamo-Hypophysical-Gonadal System.

Dr. Ehrhardt has given a number of lectures on gender identity differentiation this fall including teaching sessions at Dickinson College and Lenox Hill Hospital.

IN ISRAEL

The office of the Interior Ministry recently disclosed that it has officially recognized changes of sex—male to female—by seven Israeli men who have undergone sex reassignment operations during the last two years. The two most recent changes were recorded in the Tel Aviv office involving individuals whose operations had taken place in England. On producing attesting documents, they were permitted to register new first names and received identity cards listing them as female.

IN CANADA

The main problems discussed at the September seminar sponsored by the Association for Canadian Transexuals (ACT) in Toronto at which EEF was represented, were the lack of adequate treatment facilities in Eastern Canada and the urgent need for greater public and administrative understanding and help.

A subsequent Toronto STAR column by Paul Rimstead (a recent protest candidate for mayor) emphasized the plight of Canadian transexuals. He connected us with Canadian Broadcasting Company's concerned associates Selena Dack and Ian Brims.

As we go to press, we are delighted to report, a television film on transexualism is in production for airing on a forthcoming CBS-TV Network WEEKEND Sunday night program. Included in the film are interviews with associates of the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry Gender Identity Clinic—whose work had to be materially limited these past two years—transexuals, and Zelda Suplee.

IN MANHATTAN

. . . The Women's Medical Association of New York City November program on transexualism at New York Hospital was highlighted by the presentation of EEF Medical Board member Charles Ihlenfeld, M.D., associate of Dr. Harry Benjamin and Associate Attending Dept. of Medicine, Luther Medical Center and Endocrinologist, Sunset Family Health Center.

Discussants on the panel for the subsequent discussion were Dr. Wardell Pomeroy, author of the recently published **Dr. Kinsey and the Institute for Sex Research**, Richard Levidow, attorney, and Zelda Suplee.

. . . St. Luke's Hospital Center Mental Health Clinic has announced the establishment of weekly group therapy sessions for the treatment of transexual individuals. "This group will seek to help individuals find more comfortable ways of relating to themselves and to others while living in their chosen gender identities." Interested persons should communicate with EEF New York office for further information and referral.

. . . Interviews with one or both parents of transexuals are being sought by Stanley Coen, M.D., New York City psychiatrist, in connection with an ongoing research study. We recommend cooperation of individuals concerned in this study—the consultation itself would be mutually helpful.

. . . An EEF presentation on transexualism was given at an Intake Conference, Dept. of Psychiatry, Roosevelt Hospital, in September. We welcome invitations of this type and the opportunity to fulfill our aims to educate the professional and lay public.

IN CHICAGO

An audience of nearly 300 persons attended the symposium on transexualism sponsored by One of Chicago, Inc., and Dignity, at St. Sebastian's Church in September. With EEF cooperation, the program included panel presentations by Dr. Tamara Braun of the Chicago Gender Identity Clinic and Dr. Marie Mehl, as well as interviews with transexuals and a transvestite.

THANK YOU

We deeply appreciate the many responses to our Help Wanted requests for information details on transexuals' dealings with insurance companies, with legal and license matters and with agencies such as Welfare, Vocational Rehabilitation, etc., regardless of outcome.

We will continue to welcome cooperation from all concerned in order to have a clear picture of the civil rights and general status of transexuals in this country. Information is a necessary tool in our efforts to improve the situation.

IN VERMONT

A weekend seminar program, "Focus on Sexuality," at Middlebury College, Vt., in October included EEF participation. Two preoperative transexuals accompanied Phyllis Saperstein of the EEF New York office on a Friday evening panel which included Gay Liberation representatives and three psychiatrists, discussing "Varying Expressions of Sexuality."

The Saturday program included a segment "Transexuality" led by Alan Medoff, M.D., of Fairleigh Dickinson University and the EEF group.

LONG ISLAND DOUBLE FEATURE

For the third time in a year EEF has presented two programs on transexualism in the Health Sciences Division of the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Students in afternoon and evening classes on Human Sexuality consisted of physical education teachers and members of the Physicians Associates Program.

RECENTLY IN PRINT

. . . "Identity Clinic—Johns Hopkins Hospital Reports Backlog in Applicants Requesting Gender Change." "Surgery Seen As Final Step in Gender Role Assimilation." By Josephine M. Novak. THE EVENING SUN, Baltimore. Sept. 26-27, 1972.

. . . "Harlow—Can a Former Boy from South Philadelphia Find Happiness as the Reigning Queen of Center-City Nightlife?" by Ellen Kaye, TODAY Magazine, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, Oct. 29, 1972.

. . . "I Love Being a Woman: Woman Created Through Surgery"—"New Help Advanced for Transexuals"—"Transexual's Ultimate Problem? Money." By Patricia Hoban, Hartford TIMES, Oct. 1-2-3, 1972.

ON THE AGENDA

. . . In December and January, EEF presentations on transexualism at New School for Social Research, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Bronx Community College, Queensboro College, Gay Liberation of Westchester (GLOW), Garden City, L.I., High School and University of Miami.

. . . Jan. 9—Philadelphia. EEF-sponsored interdisciplinary seminar with representatives from five medical schools.

. . . Feb. 2-4—Stanford University Symposium.

. . . March 5—Poughkeepsie. EEF presentation at Hudson River State Hospital.

. . . April 25—N. Y. Academy of Medicine Symposium.

. . . Aug. 21-26—Slippery Rock State College, Pa. Workshop series.

SIECUS REPORT

A detailed review of each of the four EEF pamphlets appeared in the November 1972 issue of SIECUS REPORT, publication of the Sex Information and Education Council of the U.S. The reviewer commented: "Because of the widening awareness of and interest in problems relating to transexualism, these booklets from a nonprofit organization to which respected professionals contribute their knowledge should prove useful to many."

We appreciate the dissemination of this information to the thousands of REPORT readers, seriously and professionally concerned with the problems of education in human sexuality and related fields. For information concerning SIECUS membership, publications and reprints, write SIECUS, 1855 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023.

IN CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

What may be the first transexual surgery in Massachusetts has been performed at Cambridge Hospital, a city hospital, by a Harvard plastic surgeon. A former member of the Johns Hopkins Gender Identity Clinic, who performed the surgery, said there was no question in his mind that the operation was justified from the medical point of view. A psychiatrist, urologist and a gynecologist were in consultation before the decision was made.

Dr. James P. Hartgering, Commissioner of Health and Hospitals in Cambridge, said he considered the surgery difficult to turn down. "A patient presented herself with a genetic defect, suffering physically and emotionally with the possibility of serious psychiatric problems if the surgery were not done," he said.

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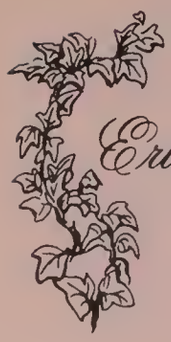

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